

FAMILY DAY AT CIA  
21 October 1978

Good morning everybody. I'm Stan Turner, the Director. Welcome to our Family Day 1978. I can't tell you how pleased we are to have you all here. I know of no Agency in the United States government that asks more of the families of its employees than does the Central Intelligence Agency. We are very grateful for the sacrifices and for the positive support that all of you give to the employees of this Agency in the course of their sensitive work. It is absolutely essential to us; we have more family teams that help us in our work here and abroad than we could possibly count or possibly thank. So we're grateful that you are here today, and hope you enjoy your visit throughout our facilities.

I'd like to say that the kind of support that you give and always have provided is maybe more important today than it has ever been, because the intelligence function in our country, in my opinion, is more important today than ever before. Why? Because if you just look back ten or twenty years, we were possessed of absolute military superiority. We were totally independent economically and we were the dominant political force in the world. The world has changed around us since then. We have military parity today. We talk about economic interdependence in such things as oil, raw materials and all around us, in old countries and new countries, we have political independence and activism on the part of other nations, not a willingness to follow our lead necessarily. In these circumstances, certain information about what's going on in the rest of the world is more important to our policy makers

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than it ever was before. Because of that, the role of the Central Intelligence Agency and the particular functions it performs in getting and evaluating that kind of information, is enhanced as far as I can see.

First, the Central Intelligence Agency is the primary element of collecting what we call human intelligence, working with human beings around the world to find out what is going on in other countries. That's our work today, that's our speciality here, we're the best at it in the country, we're the only real central place to focus that kind of intelligence collection. Despite a lot of stories in the newspapers, the human intelligence element of intelligence is more important today than it ever has been. It's different because we do have technical collection systems--satellites, signals intelligence, listening posts, and so on. Those bring in vast quantities of information today. But we need to complement each other, we need to work together, because what you can obtain through human intelligence and what you can obtain through technical intelligence is qualitatively different and you need some of each. In point of fact, the more technical intelligence you collect, the more you need human intelligence to complement it--to tell you not, as do the technical systems, what happens or happened, but what is going to happen, why people are doing things. So the DDO, the human intelligence element of the Agency, is very important today as it always has been. We do collect in the technical side through the DDS&T and their contribution, although the DDS&T is not the nation's major technical intelligence collection activity, it is a most important one. It is particularly important because it provides an innovative emphasis to our

technical collection capabilities in the country. And that's particularly important today when these technical systems cost so very, very much money and we need to have a competitive look at them. The DDS&T is very important in doing that. It's also very important in ensuring that we have the technical support for the particular kinds of activity for the Central Intelligence Agency.

A third product of this Agency is the National Foreign Assessment Center's studies, estimates, and evaluations. It does no good to bring in all this information unless we do something with it and turn it to the use and the value of our decision makers. Here the NFAC, as we call it, is the central element and it, too, plays a unique role for our country. It is the only analytic organization of the country that is not subordinate to a policy maker. I'm not in the business of making policy or recommending policy to the President. We're not supposed to do that in the intelligence world because we're supposed to be totally unbiased in presenting the objective facts, the objective analysis of what is going on in the world. Once we become associated in favoring policy A or policy B, people will, of course, suspect that our intelligence is slanted to support those positions. Accordingly, since all the other intelligence evaluating agencies--Defense, State, and Treasury--are subordinate to policy makers, the NFAC bears a deep responsibility to the entire government because it is the only one that can stand in a totally unbiased position. The others attempt to I assure you, but here we have no policy axe to grind and that contribution is just vitally important.

and the kind of unstinting support that it provides across a wide range--Automatic Data Processing, to Logistics, to Communications, to Personnel, and so on--is utterly vital to these operations particularly because our operations in all the other Directorates, is spread across the world and the far-flung support elements of the DDA are utterly critical.

Finally, just let me say to you that as we move on to the end of 1978, I have never been more optimistic about the prospects, the importance of the Central Intelligence Agency and intelligence in general in our country than I am today. Why? Because in this year in particular, in 1978, I think we have seen a major trend, a major reversal of attitude toward the intelligence activities in our country. We have suffered through over three years of intense public criticism, a small amount of it justified but most of it not. But now we are seeing a change, a more balanced approach, a recognition by the people of this country that they want, they need, a good capable intelligence activity. I travel around a fair amount, I try to talk to the public once every five or six weeks in one form or another, and the message is very clear. The message is coming clear on the Hill, in the Congress also. They, too, recognize that we must retain a capability to learn what is going on in the rest of the world and that means a secretive intelligence organization, such as the CIA, as the central focus of that capability. In short, we deserve, we are earning, and we are obtaining now that kind of public and Congressional support that is essential to our future. We're not all the way there, there is still going to be criticism and we want that

in some sense. We don't want to be so sheltered from criticism that we don't feel we are under an obligation to be judicious and careful and cautious in what we do. But, at the same time, we must have that basic support from the public, from Congress and I see us much more possessed of it today than we have been.

But I'm also optimistic because every indication is that the quality of our product continues to be superb and continues to be recognized as such. We have nothing at all, we will not have the support of the administration and the Congress and the public, or anywhere else, if we don't do a good job, if we don't provide a useful service. But I can assure you that regularly the President assures me that he is pleased with our product. I can assure you that as I see this product going to the other elements of our government, the Department of Defense--as recently as yesterday the Secretary of Defense asked me to do a particular study for him on a problem that he sees moving up on the military horizon. He asked us at the Central Intelligence Agency to make a special effort to give him some insight into that. And that happens in the State Department, in the Treasury Department, and elsewhere, and much more so today than ever before on Capitol Hill where our product has, in my opinion, not been adequately used in years past and is now being much more utilized, much more recognized. It can be a factor. And as you know, we have tried in the recent year, or year and a half, two years, to make more of our product available to the American public in unclassified form. This has two purposes.

One, it is to let the American public benefit by what we do, and obtain some return on their investment, when we can do so without jeopardizing the secrecy we must maintain. But it also has the benefit that I believe is going to help us to maintain our secrets better. We do have a serious problem in this country with maintaining secrets at this particular time and it is critical to us in the intelligence world. But one reason we don't keep is that there is too much that is classified secret and it is not respected because of that. People see things that are labeled secret which they recognize maybe should not be. So by declassifying as much as we can, we hope to protect and garner respect for that which remains. But we are in a new era, it's an exciting time, an important time, there are changes in our procedures here because of the publicity that we've received, the scrutiny we've received over the last three and a half--four years. But out of this is coming, a new intelligence capability in terms of being more open with the public where we can, tightening security wherever possible, and at the same time, being subject to a much greater degree of oversight by the administration, by the Congress than ever before. But I assure you that I see in this oversight process continuing strengths for us. It gives us a legal, a good foundation for our activities. It gives us a sense of responsibility, a sense of accountability, and we get support and advice from these Congressional oversight committees which is very, very helpful to us.

Let me just close by saying I really am optimistic. And I'm optimistic more than anything else because of the quality of the people

we're blessed to have in the Central Intelligence Agency. Their contribution, some of them going back to the beginning--1947, some of them much more recent, have been consistently outstanding as they are today and it's your support for them that helps to make it such. I'm grateful to you, I'm pleased you are with us today and I hope you do enjoy your tour of our activities here at Langley. Thank you very much.